

-22-

What is claimed is:

1. A composition comprising a ribonucleic acid
5 molecule which enhances the amplification of PrP^{Sc}.
2. A method for identifying the presence of PrP^{Sc}
comprising contacting a sample suspected of containing an
infectious prion protein with a ribonucleic acid molecule
of claim 1 and identifying the presence of PrP^{Sc}.
- 10 3. A kit for identifying the presence of PrP^{Sc}
comprising a ribonucleic acid molecule of claim 1.